



General Assembly

**Substitute Bill No. 5037**

February Session, 2014



**AN ACT CONCERNING CROSS REPORTING OF CHILD ABUSE AND ANIMAL CRUELTY.**

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives in General Assembly convened:

1 Section 1. Section 22-329b of the general statutes is repealed and the  
2 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective October 1, 2014*):

3 (a) Any animal control officer appointed pursuant to section 22-328,  
4 22-331 or 22-331a who (1) has reasonable cause to suspect that an  
5 animal observed in the course of the officer's employment is being or  
6 has been harmed, neglected or treated cruelly in violation of section  
7 53-247, [and] or (2) files a verified petition with the Superior Court  
8 pursuant to section 22-329a shall make a written report to the  
9 Commissioner of Agriculture in accordance with subsection (b) of this  
10 section.

11 (b) The written report shall be made by the officer as soon as  
12 practicable, but not later than forty-eight hours after the officer has  
13 reasonable cause to suspect that an animal has been harmed, neglected  
14 or treated cruelly pursuant to subdivision (1) of subsection (a) of this  
15 section or has filed [the] a verified petition. Each written report shall  
16 contain, if known: (1) The address where the animal was observed and  
17 the name and address of the owner or other person responsible for  
18 care of the animal; (2) the name and a description of the animal; (3) the

19 nature and extent of the harm, neglect or cruelty to the animal; (4) the  
20 approximate date and time such harm, neglect or cruelty occurred; (5)  
21 any information concerning any previous harm to, neglect of or cruelty  
22 toward the animal; (6) the circumstances under which such harm,  
23 neglect or cruelty came to be known by the officer; and (7) the name  
24 and address of every person the officer reasonably suspects to be  
25 responsible for such harm, neglect or cruelty.

26 (c) Not later than November 1, [2011] 2014, and monthly thereafter,  
27 the Commissioner of Agriculture shall send a report to the  
28 Commissioner of Children and Families containing all of the  
29 information received pursuant to subsection (b) of this section during  
30 the preceding month.

31 Sec. 2. Section 17a-106d of the general statutes is repealed and the  
32 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective October 1, 2014*):

33 Not later than one week after receiving a report pursuant to  
34 subsection (c) of section 22-329b, as amended by this act, the  
35 Commissioner of Children and Families shall determine if any address  
36 provided in said report is an address where the Department of  
37 Children and Families has [opened an investigation of a child pursuant  
38 to a report of abuse or neglect made under this chapter] an open child  
39 protective service case. If the commissioner determines that there is an  
40 open [investigation of a] child protective service case and the  
41 department is currently providing services for a child or youth and his  
42 or her family at the same address as an address provided in said  
43 report, the commissioner shall provide the department's [investigator]  
44 social worker assigned to such child or youth and his or her family  
45 with all relevant information from said report. The department shall  
46 include the information provided to the [investigator] social worker in  
47 the department's record on the child.

48 Sec. 3. Subsection (a) of section 17a-100a of the general statutes is  
49 repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective*  
50 *October 1, 2014*):

51 (a) Any employee of the Department of Children and Families who,  
 52 in the course of his or her employment, has reasonable cause to suspect  
 53 that an animal is being or has been harmed, neglected or treated  
 54 cruelly in violation of section 53-247 shall make [an oral] a written  
 55 report to the Commissioner of Agriculture in accordance with  
 56 subsection (b) of this section.

57 Sec. 4. (NEW) (*Effective October 1, 2014*) Not later than January 1,  
 58 2015, and annually thereafter, the Commissioners of Children and  
 59 Families and Agriculture shall, in accordance with section 11-4a of the  
 60 general statutes, report to the joint standing committee of the General  
 61 Assembly having cognizance of matters relating to children on the  
 62 number of written reports regarding actual or suspected instances of  
 63 animal neglect or cruelty received from employees of the Department  
 64 of Children and Families pursuant to section 17a-100a of the general  
 65 statutes, as amended by this act, and from animal control officers  
 66 pursuant to section 22-329b of the general statutes, as amended by this  
 67 act.

This act shall take effect as follows and shall amend the following sections:		
Section 1	<i>October 1, 2014</i>	22-329b
Sec. 2	<i>October 1, 2014</i>	17a-106d
Sec. 3	<i>October 1, 2014</i>	17a-100a(a)
Sec. 4	<i>October 1, 2014</i>	New section

**KID**      *Joint Favorable Subst.*

**ENV**      *Joint Favorable*